

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01102 080649Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 L-03 H-02 OES-05 IGA-02

COME-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 W

----- 038499

R 080617Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4751

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1102

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SN

SUBJ: SALE OF AID DONATED FOOD PRODUCT IN SINGAPORE MARKET

1. STRAITS TIMES ARTICLE OF MARCH 4 REPORTS THAT "SOME LOCAL TRADERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE BEHIND A RACKET SIPHONING OFF MORE THAN \$51 MILLION WORTH OF MILK, FLOUR, AND BUTTER OIL IN AMERICAN AID FOR THE POOR IN THIS REGION FOR RETAIL SALE AT CUT PRICES." GOODS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING SOLD UNDER LABELS BEARING FICTITIOUS BRAND NAMES, BUT THIS "CAMOUFLAGE" IS SO FLIMSILY DONE THAT MARKINGS IDENTIFYING THESE PRODUCTS AS AMERICAN AID ARE EASILY DISCERNIBLE (PICTURE ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE SHOWS 5-1/2 POUND CAN OF BUTTER OIL BEFORE AND AFTER BOGUS LABEL WAS STRIPPED OFF. ORIGINAL MARKING IS ENSCRIBED "DONATED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" AND INCLUDES AID HAND-CLASP EMBLEM).

2. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THESE COMMODITIES WERE ORIGINALLY DESTINED FOR INDOCHINA COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, EMBASSY RCMO INFORMS US BUTTER OIL IS NOT INCLUDED IN ANY OF THE FRUSTRATED CARGOES AND TO HIS KNOWLEDGE WAS NOT PART OF THE COMMODITY PROGRAMS FOR VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA.

3. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS AVAILABLE.
COPY OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED EA/IMS. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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